



Media Advisory

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY
David A. Berns, Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Visit our DES web site at
www.azdes.gov

WHO*: Arizona Governor Janet Napolitano, DES Director David Berns, Arizona Association for Foster and Adoptive Parents (AZAFAP) President Kris Jacober, current foster parents, representatives of local licensing agencies, child advocates and supporters.

WHAT: These individuals will gather at Wesley Bolin plaza to acknowledge the contributions of foster parents and case managers to the safety and security of Arizona's abused and neglected children. They will use the 8,400 blue ribbons tied to the trees at the plaza to signify the children currently in out of home care in Arizona. At the same time, they will renew the call to service for more foster families and case managers.

Representatives of local licensing agencies and the DES personnel office will be on hand to answer questions from prospective foster parents or those interested in joining the Child Protective Services team. Those who cannot attend are encouraged to call 1-877-KIDS-NEED-U if they are interested in foster parenting, or email or email CPS.Resumes@mail.de.state.az.us for information about working for CPS.

WHY: Too many abused and neglected children are lingering in shelters or group homes because of the lack of foster homes to meet their needs. The goal of foster care is to find for each child a safe, permanent home as quickly as possible, but with existing foster homes filled to capacity, options for children already in the system and those entering the system are few. Often, children are in multiple placements before the appropriate placement is found.

WHEN: Thursday, May 20
9 to 10 a.m.

WHERE: Wesley Bolin Plaza
17th Avenue and Washington Street

****Representatives of the Arizona Association for Foster and Adoptive Parents and area licensing agencies will be available in the days prior to the event to talk about the need for more foster parents in Arizona and the process for becoming a licensed foster parent.***